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that had been conferred upon him. It was not his intention to have obtruded himself on the attention of the meeting, but the handsome manner in which allusion had been made both to himself and to the Board of Education to which he had the happiness to belong, rendered it impossible that he should sit silent. He felt infinite pleasure in stating to the meeting, that the Board of Education in Ireland had laid the foundation of that system, which if pursued by the Parliament of the United Kingdom, would raise that country as high in intellectual endowments as any country in Europe. The Archbishop of Armagh had been the person who stood foremost in that Board to dispel all those bigotted religious distinctions, which stood in the way of the education of the poor. To his knowledge, that great character, in his own diocese, and near his own palace, had established a school which was open equally to the Catholic, to the Protestant, and to the Dissenter. To have opened such a school was a great deal for such a man, but to see it attended with success, was still more flattering. What application had been made to that worthy personage, and from what quarters, he would not express, but he knew that every attempt had been made to shake the opinions of those dignified clergymen, who had supported the Board of Education in Ireland; and he also knew that these attempts had failed. It was said that doubts had arisen as to the expediency of promoting one general question in Ireland. He could only say, from his knowledge, that at the present moment no such doubts were observable. He would not now take up the time of the meeting in descanting on the advantages of education at large. This was a subject which was perfectly understood, and which required no comment from him. In advertent to this topic, however, he could not help observing, that whatever success attended the endeavours of the noble Chairman and his illustrious supporters, in the promotion of the Lancasterian system at the present moment, no eye could look forward, or imagination conceive, what it would produce after one generation. Nothing could be more certain than that a vast deal of talent and genius lay dormant for the want of proper education; and he had no doubt when that blessing was extended, that "many a flower which had been born to blush unseen," would display their beauties to the world. Many

Hampdens would do honour to their country as patriots, and many Miltons would add to its literary celebrity. While advertent to the Board of Education in Ireland, he thought it proper to state a circumstance which was not generally known, namely, that it was entirely owing to the exertions of the Duke of Bedford when Lord Lieutenant of Ireland*, that this Board was instituted; and that he had been appointed a member of that Board by the Duke without any previous intimation. Finding such a cause in progress as general education, he felt most anxious to use every exertion in his power to forward it. He found the most respectable individuals in the kingdom embarked in this great cause, and if it went on, and the legislature granted to it that support which it so eminently deserved, and passed such enactments as were calculated to give it encouragement, he did not hesitate to say, that it would in a short time arrive at perfection.

TO THE ELECTORS AT WESTMINSTER,
ASSEMBLED AT THE CROWN AND ANCHOR.

May 24th, 1813.

GENTLEMEN,

"It is truly mortifying to me, to be compelled, by the state of my health, to omit the discharge of most important duties, and to forego the satisfaction of meeting my constituents, in the Independent Electors of Westminster, upon this anni-

* The Duke of Bedford had previously alluded to the Board of Education formed during his administration, and under his auspices in the following terms:

"It is with peculiar satisfaction, I observe from the fourteenth report of the Board of Education in Ireland, that the principles of the Lancasterian system have been fully recognized and acted upon in that country. This circumstance, I am led to believe, is in a great measure attributable to the exertions of Mr. Edgeworth, a man whose meritorious conduct has gained the warm respect of persons in this country; and whose philanthropic efforts in Ireland have elicited the love and admiration of his fellow-subjects. Those who pursue a similar liberal and enlightened course, it is gratifying to reflect, will receive the sweetest of all possible earthly rewards, the approbation of their own conscience.

versary, in commemoration of an election so honourable to you, and so flattering to me.

"I think it, however, my duty, to renew before you this day my unchanged, and, I believe, unchangeable political principles, which, form the bond of our union, and, I trust, of a great majority of the people of England, practically exemplified in a steady adherence to the determination of exerting every effort in our power to obtain the restoration of the people to their rational and constitutional right of choosing their own representatives in the Commons House of Parliament. I am well aware of the danger to which every man exposes himself, who, in these times, avows sentiments hostile to the power of a corrupt oligarchy in a falsely denominated representation of the people. No one has more cause to know the unconstitutional stretches of that power, than I have; and, although it is the conduct of a madman to expose himself to danger for chimerical good, and highly culpable to utter sentiments favourable to popular tumult and disorganizing regulated society, it is nevertheless as culpable, and more pusillanimous, to shrink from supporting opinions conducive to the benefit of mankind, and to desert the cause of liberty and humanity, by timid palliation, or mean subterfuge, from the fear of offending any power.

"Gentlemen, it may appear superfluous, annually to assure my constituents of that of which they entertain no doubt, my unshaken attachment to the great constitutional principle of free representation. If, however, we reflect on the numerous and melancholy desertions from, or the lukewarm or heartless support afforded to this great national cause, by some of its earliest and most powerful advocates; when political apostacy is become so very common, when we can number among its votaries so many, who, not long since, were revered for their patriotism, and whose abilities, exerted in defence of our liberties, at the commencement of this wicked and unhappy war, excited universal admiration and esteem; we may, perhaps, think renewed professions of political faith necessary to keep alive one another's zeal, and to prevent us from giving way to despair: never, however, was there less cause for despair than at the present time. I am persuaded, the public are at length aware of the bearings of this great measure, and, unless I am much misinformed,

petitions are likely to be pouring in from all quarters in its support. The rapacity of the borough factions, the prodigality and profusion, as enormous as infamous, of public expenditure, equalled only by the severity and unconstitutional modes of public exaction, compel many bitterly to reflect on their slavish condition, and to perceive that their sinecure place-bills, Commissioners of accounts, and other wretched devices of sham reform, or economical reform, relieve the public burthens as much as the famous sinking fund scheme pays the public debt. As to the objections to our principles, they must be urged, not against us, but against Montesquieu, Sidney, Locke, Somers, Blackstone, and a host of authorities whence they are derived, sources of political information, names revered even up to this time; writings in which reason and truth, embodied, stand impregnable bulwarks against the attacks of sophistry, venality, and falsehood; under their banners, we hope to fight successfully the good fight, and to stem the torrent of corruption, which otherwise bids fair to subdue the freedom of our country.

"Gentlemen, we are represented as dangerous persons, democrats, &c.; since our enemies give us the name, we will not disclaim it; it is an honest name, and only means those who are for the people having their just share of power; but we are far from being promoters of anarchy and confusion; we propose the only means by which they can probably in the end be avoided, a timely, temperate, and effectual reform. "Early reformations," says Mr. Burke, "are amicable arrangements." But strong as our sentiments upon this subject are, they will, I trust, always be delivered with temper; for, I am persuaded, the cause of truth has never been promoted by virulence and abuse. These are weapons to be left to our opponents, and are the constant and last resource of exposed knavery, and defeated malice.

"Gentlemen, it used to be pretended, that the House of Commons was not corrupt, but now that being "as notorious as the sun at noon-day," our adversaries turn round upon us, and unblushingly contend that it *ought* to be corrupt, so that the satirical poet is not mistaken when he says,
'There's nothing bolder than a woman caught;
Guilt gives them courage to maintain their fault.'

But this is a doctrine which will never go down long with any nation; and those interested in the continuance of abuses are upon their last legs when compelled to avow them. They call us factious, desperate men. Their idea of a good citizen is just the reverse of Solon's; he thought it criminal not to take a part in the political interests of the community. These modern Solons appear to think, that this selfish apathy is the perfection of patriotism, or only inferior to those "ardent minds" whose zeal outruns discretion in obedience to the powers that be, so let the "Devil be honoured for his burning throne."

"For my part, I shall ever think, that the best virtue consists in maintaining human liberty, and the best virtue of an Englishman in an intrepid support of the common rights of Englishmen; and I should think I ill performed my duty to God or my neighbour, did I not dare to make use of the reason God has given me, or had not manliness to utter the result of it.

"With these sentiments, and with the utmost gratitude and devotion, I beg leave to subscribe myself,

"Gentlemen,
"Your obedient, humble servant,
"F. BURDETT."

VACCINATION.

*Royal College of Surgeons.**

We, whose names are hereunto subscribed, deeply impressed with the many fatal instances of the Small-pox which have lately happened, and which daily occur, in the metropolis and in various towns of the kingdom; convinced that such events are, in a great degree, consequences of

* To exhibit the benefits of Vaccination, the following accounts are subjoined.

A Report has been lately made to the class of physical sciences of the Imperial Institute, by which it is stated, that out of 2,671,662 persons vaccinated in France, only 7 authenticated cases appear of patients having afterwards taken the small-pox.

By the Glasgow bills of mortality, it appears, that 49 persons died by the small-pox in 1811, and in 1812 only 24 persons. But prior to the introduction of Vaccination, several hundreds annually died of the small-pox.

the support and propagation of that disease by inoculation; and fully satisfied of the safety and security of Vaccination; from a consequent sense of duty to the community, do hereby engage ourselves, to each other and to the public, not to inoculate the small-pox, unless, for some special reason, after Vaccination; but to pursue, and, to the utmost of our power, promote the practice of Vaccination. And further, we do recommend to all the members of the College, of correspondent opinions and sentiments of duty, to enter into similar engagements.

Master, Thomson Forster.

Governors, Everard Home, Wm. Blizard.

Assistants.

James Earle.	William Norris.
G. Chandler.	James Ware.
Charles Blicke.	J. A. Hawkins.
T. Keate.	P. Knight.
J. Heaviside.	Ludford Harvey.
Henry Cline.	William Lynn.
David Dundas.	John Abernethy.
John Charlton.	

Lincoln's Inn Fields, 7th April, 1813.

PETITION FROM LEICESTER FOR PARLIAMENTARY REFORM.

A requisition was lately signed by forty of the most respectable inhabitants of Leicester, to Mr. Fox, the mayor, to convene a public meeting for the purpose of petitioning Parliament for a repeal of the triennial and septennial acts. Mr. Fox having, as the head of a close corporation, refused to grant the request, a meeting took place at the Bowling green, at which Walter Ruding, Esq. presided. After speeches, which evinced great learning and ability, from Mr. Ruding and Mr. Ryley, some spirited Resolutions were agreed to, together with the following petition, which is admirably drawn, and contains a condensed view of the wishes and arguments of the petitioners.

To the Honourable the Commons of the United Kingdom. The Humble Petition of the inhabitants of Leicester,

Showeth,

That the House of Commons, as at present constituted, doth not fully and fairly represent the people of England, nor speak their sentiments, according to what your petitioners conceive to be the principles of the constitution, which they consider as a grievance, and therefore, with all be-